



# Calhoun County Connections

## Special Points of Interest

- \* Friendly Contest
- \* Juvenile Home Angel Tree
- \* December Happenings
- \* Chocolate Recipes
- \* New Hires
- \* Employee Milestones
- \* 2016 Holiday Schedule

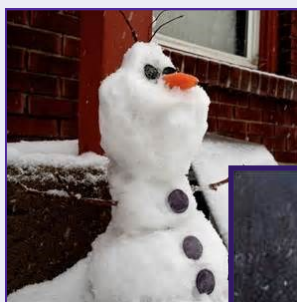
Happy Holidays!

### Let it snow, let it snow some more.

Adult or child, it's hard to resist that first fluffy snow fall. Grab your mittens and scarves, not just to shovel and hope for warmer days, let's face it, it's here to stay. Let your inner kid run free and create a master piece. Don't forget to take a picture and forward it to Marie at

**[mstamand@calhouncountymi.gov](mailto:mstamand@calhouncountymi.gov)**.

I will share the pictures in March, or as soon as snow has left us to give place to tender greens. We will then have a littlest contest. Contest is open to every member of your family.



### JUVENILE HOME ANGEL TREE

Please take a tag from our Angel Tree to purchase a gift for the residents of the Juvenile Home. All gifts will remain at the Juvenile Home. If you wish to wrap the gift, please attach the tag to the outside of the package. Your gift may be dropped off at the Juvenile Home or where you picked up the tag. We will be collecting all gifts on Friday, December 18, 2015.

If there are any questions, please contact Sandy Eis at 781-7221 or 789-3500.

Thank you for your generosity.

Tags can be picked up at the Juvenile Home, Justice Center (cafeteria), Human Resources, Family Fare in Albion, Marshall Animal Care Center, Family Video in Marshall, Mansion Street Women's Health in Marshall and Battle Creek..



# December Happenings



## Christmas Tree Lane

November 27-January 1, we will be hosting Christmas Tree Lane in our greenhouse. Shop with local artisans and crafters and buy beautiful handmade gifts.

Only at

**OERTHER'S**  
*come grow with us!*

311 W. Spruce St. Marshall  
269-781-4040  
[www.oerthers.com](http://www.oerthers.com)

Enjoy the Zoo decorated for the holidays! Stroll along lighted paths viewing some of our weather-hardy animals on exhibit enjoying the winter season. Then head indoors for time with Santa, stories with Grandma Claus, unlimited **FREE carousel rides**, up-close animal meet and greets, seasonal holiday refreshments, special activities, and more. (Wild Africa will be closed.)

<http://www.binderparkzoo.org/specialPages/zoolights.php>

December 18-23 5pm to 8pm

\$4 Binder Park Zoo Members \$5 Non-members

Children under 2 are FREE



December 17  
5:00pm to 8:30 pm



There will be over 30 of Marshall's amazing retailers taking part in Girls' Night Out, in which the unique shops stay open late, and offer great deals. There will be refreshments, specials and prizes throughout the town. December 17th will be the last Girls' Night Out of the year with the theme of Ugly Christmas Sweater Party.



Kalamazoo  
Nature Center

## BUY LOCAL ART & GIFT FAIR

Saturday, December 12

9 am - 4 pm

**FREE Admission all day!**

More than 50 top local artists & vendors  
Enjoy great food & fun surrounded by the beauty  
of the Kalamazoo Nature Center

**Enter the gift raffles to support KNC  
and win baskets full of unique works of art and products!**

7000 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

[www.NatureCenter.org](http://www.NatureCenter.org)

## December Milestones

### 25 YEARS & Over

**Stephen Miller - 40 yrs**

*Circuit Court*

**David Treat - 36 yrs**

*Maintenance*

**Cheryl McDonagh - 33 yrs**

*District Court*

**Douglas Vahs - 32 yrs**

*Road Department*

**Jeryl Schoepke - 26 yrs**

*Finance*

**Sarah Parker - 26 yrs**

*Circuit Court*

### 20 YEARS

**Teddy Warden**

*Sheriff's Department*

### 15 YEARS

**Steven Kita**

**Howard Trader**

*Road Department*

### 10 YEARS

**Stacey Evans**

*Juvenile Home*

**Kelly Fuller**

*Road Department*

### 5 YEARS

**Steve Frisbie**

*Board of Commissioners*

**David Williams**

**William Wilson**

**Chadwick Shepard**

**Christopher Lowder**

*Road Department*

# All About Chocolate

## **Best Chocolate Cake...Ever**

**By: Lora Stevens**



- 1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup cocoa powder
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup strong black coffee, cooled
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. real vanilla extract

## **CHOCOLATE FROSTING**

- 1/2 c margarine, softened
- 2 oz. melted unsweetened chocolate, cooled
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 3 Tbsp milk
- 2 tsp real vanilla extract

## **DIRECTIONS:**

- 1. Combine flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a large mixing bowl or stand mixer.
- 2. Add eggs, coffee, buttermilk, oil, and vanilla.
- 3. Beat at medium speed for two minutes. Batter will be thin.
- 4. Pour batter into a greased and floured 9x13 pan or two 9 inch cake pans.
- 5. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes for a 9x13, or 30-35 minutes for layer pans.
- 6. Combine frosting ingredients and mix with a hand or stand mixer. Spread frosting on cooled cakes.

## **New Hires**

**Bradley Devereaux**

**Cody Payne**

**Matthew LaFave**

*Road Department*

**Adam Reincke**

**Lindsey Goodman**

**Linda Knisley**

*Juvenile Home*

**Teimka Irving**

**Vallen VanZyll**

*Sheriff's Department*

**Samantha Lambert**

*CCCD*

**Lee Ziegler**

*District Court*

**Mariah Banghart**

**Melissa Harris**

*Circuit Court*

## **Chocolate Covered Peanuts by Megan Sharkey**

- 1 bar german chocolate cooking chocolate
- 12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 48 oz almond bark (24oz almond bark and 24 oz milk chocolate bark)
- 1 16 oz dry roasted unsalted peanuts
- 1 16 oz dry roasted salted peanuts

Place all ingredients in crockpot. Cook on low for 1.5 hours or warm for 3 hours. Do not touch. Turn crockpot off and let it sit for 20 minutes. Cover counter top or table with waxed or parchment paper. Stir mixture completely. Drop by spoonfuls onto paper or into small paper muffin cups. Let harden and store in airtight container. They also freeze!



# Calhoun County

## Human Resources Department

### 2016 Holiday Schedule



Holiday	Date	Date Observed if Different than the Holiday
New Year's Day (2016)	Friday, January 1	
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 18	
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 15	
Good Friday (1/2 day-p.m.)	Friday, March 25 (Begins at Noon)	
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30	
Independence Day	Monday, July 4	
Labor Day	Monday, September 5	
Veteran's Day	Friday, November 11	
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24	
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 25	
Christmas Eve	Saturday, December 24	Friday, December 23
Christmas Day	Sunday, December 25	Monday, December 26
New Year's Eve	Saturday, December 31	Friday, December 30
New Year's Day (2017)	Sunday, January 1	Monday, January 2